

separate syndromes are described, and the suggested therapy is so obscure that it seems unlikely that any physician could manage patients adequately on the basis of the information contained herein. This book cannot be recommended.

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**A TEXTBOOK OF NEUROPATHOLOGY** with Clinical, Anatomical and Technical Supplements. By Ben W. Lichtenstein, B.S., M.S., M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, University of Illinois College of Medicine. Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$9.50.

This excellent volume is much more than a textbook of neuropathology. It is a clear, concise presentation of neurological syndromes from a pathological standpoint. The author states that it was primarily designed for medical students and those training in neurology, neuropsychiatry and neurosurgery, and in this he has more than surpassed his primary objective. For the teaching of neurology and neurosurgery, there are available many very comprehensive works pertaining to either field alone, but there is no other volume available which combines the important clinical and pathological aspects in such an understandable manner. To those beginning the study of neurology and neurosurgery, it should prove to be an indispensable text.

As a reference book for those more experienced in the treatment of diseases of the nervous system, the excellent bibliography at the end of each chapter should prove to be of great value. An added feature is the chapter termed Clinical Supplement in which definitions and brief descriptions of the many syndromes are presented. The chapter concerning neuropathological technique might prove to be of value purely as a reference but constitutes only a small portion of the textbook and is probably of much less general interest than the material in the remainder of the book.

The illustrations are of excellent technical calibre, well chosen, and add greatly to the value of a book which can be highly recommended to every individual interested in the treatment of diseases of the nervous system.

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**SYNOPSIS OF HERNIA.** By Alfred H. Iason, M.D., Attending Physician, Adelphi Hospital, Director of Surgery, Brooklyn Hospital for the Aged. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1949. \$6.50.

This book, as the author states in his preface, is a condensation of his previous book on hernia published in 1944. In so condensing his original book, Dr. Iason has eliminated many of its most interesting sections, namely those on the historical background, the theories of etiology, and the excellent discussion of the medicolegal aspects.

Surgeons operating on hernias would profit by familiarity with the original book. Medical students, and those general men doing occasional operations for hernia will find Dr. Iason's latest book exactly what its title describes it as being, a synopsis of hernia. It covers the various types of hernia, from common inguinal to rare pelvic in all their aspects, including anatomy, etiology, signs and symptoms, various types of surgical treatment thereof and finally an enlightening chapter on recurrences. It is clearly and concisely written and fairly well illustrated.

Those surgeons wishing to keep abreast of the latest developments in the anatomy and surgical technique of hernias will find that this book does not contribute anything significantly new to the subject and will profit more by reference to the many excellent papers in the recent literature.

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**A TEXTBOOK OF PHARMACOGNOSY.** By George E. Trease, B.Pharm., F.R.I.C., F.L.S., Reader in Pharmacognosy and Head of the Department of Pharmacy in the University of Nottingham. Revised, Fifth Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$8.00.

Pharmacognosy is the science having to do with the recognition of the nature and value of drugs, and more especially of drugs of plant origin. The subject matter includes the

plant source, the gross and microscopic appearance of the medicinal portion of the plant and the chemical nature of its active principles. This book by George Edward Trease covers the subject as completely as is possible in a book of 800 pages, and is well illustrated with photographs and sketches of drugs plants and parts. The book is composed of five parts entitled General Principles, Drugs of Vegetable Origin, Drugs of Animal Origin, Chemistry, and Microscopy. Important chapters are on Commerce in Crude Drugs, with many illustrative photographs, Cultivation of Medicinal Plants, The Collection, Drying and Curing of Drugs, chapters describing the separate phyla of drug plants, Constitution of Drugs, Microscopical Study of Drugs and The Examination of Powdered Drugs. The book is of value not only to the pharmacist, but also to the physician who is interested in knowing the character of the materials going into the compounding of his prescription.

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**EARLY CARCINOMA OF THE UTERINE CERVIX—Pathogenesis and Detection (Revised and Augmented Edition).** By Hansjakob Wespi, M.D., Chief of the Obstetrical and Gynecological Department, Frauenfeld Hospital, Aarau, Switzerland. Grune and Stratton, Inc., New York, 1949. \$6.50.

This small volume is a translation by Marie Schiller of a monograph finished in 1943, first published abroad in 1946, and now revised by the addition of references to American papers of recent years, particularly those dealing with exfoliative cytology. The book is divided into four parts, the first being a foreword of 25 pages written by Walter Schiller and having very little to do with the rest of the volume. Parts two and three, comprising the bulk of the monograph, deal with colposcopy as employed by Wespi in nearly four thousand cases seen in the obstetrical and gynecological department at the University of Zurich. The histology of the normal and pathological cervical mucosa is presented and numerous case reports are given in detail. The concluding section discusses the development of carcinoma from various atypical varieties of epithelium and offers some rambling remarks on the origin of cancer. There is a bibliography of 235 items, followed by 95 figures, most of them good reproductions of photomicrographs of early carcinomatous lesions. Basically this monograph is a plea for the use of colposcopy in the diagnosis of early cervical carcinoma. It seems unlikely, however, that the colposcope—never popular with American gynecologists—will ever be widely used now that exfoliative cytology has become such a reliable diagnostic tool. Despite its belated appearance, this book contains many interesting observations, and it is recommended to all gynecologists and pathologists.

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**A DESCRIPTIVE ATLAS OF RADIOGRAPHS—An Aid to Modern Clinical Methods.** By A. P. Bertwistle, M.D., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., Ed. Seventh edition, revised and enlarged. 980 illustrations. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1949. \$16.00.

In the first chapter of this book entitled "Milestones in Radio-Diagnosis," an excellent historical summary is given of the important discoveries of x-ray methods of examination of various systems of the body. The remaining portion of the book consists of illustrations of radiographs which are accompanied by condensed descriptions and sometimes brief case histories. Much worthwhile material is thus presented, but the absence of an explanatory text makes the book somewhat fragmentary.

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**MALIGNANT DISEASE AND ITS TREATMENT BY RADIUM—Volume II.** By Sir Stanford Cade, K.B.E., C.B., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., Surgeon, Westminster Hospital, Mount Vernon Hospital and Radium Institute. Second edition. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1949. \$12.50.

Volume II of this series of three volumes deals with malignant disease of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, and neck

—anatomical areas in which radiotherapy has much to contribute in the treatment of patients. While the book is limited largely to the method of employment of interstitial radium therapy, this subject is covered well and with adequate diagrams showing appropriate dosages. X-ray therapy dosage is also given, and the choice of surgical operation or electrocoagulation as methods of treatment is discussed. The numerous illustrations, some of which are in color, add materially to the value of the book.

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**BLAKISTON'S NEW GOULD MEDICAL DICTIONARY.** Harold W. Jones, M.D., Normand L. Hoerr, M.D., and Arthur Osol, Ph.D., Editors. 252 illustrations on 45 plates. First edition. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$8.50.

This book is not a revision of Gould's Medical Dictionary, but, in the editors' words, a complete new reference work. It not only brings definitions of traditional medical terms abreast of current usage but also defines words recently brought into use in medical literature. Noteworthy is a definition of the word *allergy*: "Altered reaction capacity to a specific substance which will cause no symptoms of hypersensitivity in the nonsensitive." It is pleasant to note that by including the word *capacity* in the definition, the editors have held aloof from current (and rife) misusage.

A helpful feature is that trade names of medicinal products are included, always with notation that the name of the product is trademarked or proprietary.

The typography is such as to save time for the user. Words listed as sub-entries below the parent word are vertically aligned flush with a slightly indented left-hand margin. The eye need move only downward along the edge of the column to find the word being sought. This is a distinct improvement over the usual practice of scattering sub-entries like needles in a haystack of type below a main entry.

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**CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY.** By Abraham Cantarow, M.D., Professor of Biochemistry, Jefferson Medical College, and Max Trumper, Ph.D., Commander, H(S), USNR, Lecturer in Clinical Biochemistry and Basic Science Coordinator, Naval Medical School, Bethesda, Maryland. Fourth edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$8.00.

This is certainly one of the best texts on clinical biochemistry. It attempts to translate current biochemical knowledge into clinical practice and it succeeds remarkably well in this attempt. The coverage is broad, yet sufficiently detailed. The authors write from a wide personal experience. They also have an extensive bibliography for general subjects and specific statements at the end of each chapter; from these the reader may follow up any investigation he desires.

This, the fourth edition, has extensive revisions on acid-base balance; pigment metabolism in relation to jaundice; carbohydrate, lipid and protein metabolism; thyroid function; adrenal function; absorption and storage of iron;

action of parathyroid hormone; renal physiology; vitamins and experimental diabetes. Newly added material includes chemical changes in shock; thymol turbidity and flocculation tests; fatty liver; the crush syndrome; alarm reaction; goitrogenic agents; and new methods of studying adrenocortical function.

The book is a valuable reference for both practitioners and students.

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**TEXTBOOK OF MEDICAL TREATMENT.** By Various Authors, Edited by D. M. Dunlop, M.D., L. S. P. Davidson, M.D., and J. W. McNeew, M.D. Fifth edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$8.50.

This is the fifth edition in ten years of a standard British text of treatment. It has been written for both students and practitioners to provide a moderate sized text in which the information should be clear and explicit. However, there is much that may be criticized in the volume.

The arrangement of the chapters is unusual and without adequate reason as far as this reviewer can discover. The order begins: Infectious Diseases, Sulphonamide Drugs, Penicillin, Antihistaminic Drugs, Dehydration and Hypochloremia, Tuberculosis, Common Diseases of the Skin, Venereal Diseases, etc., etc.

The style itself of the book will probably limit its use largely to the countries in the sterling bloc. The idioms (particularly the medical idioms) will require translating for the average American student not brought up on weights in stone nor weighing in minims. The individual collaborators use either the metric or apothecary system as they choose. This breeds confusion—the avoidance of which is the avowed purpose of the editors. In the preface it is stated that the apothecary system has been used in deference to the practitioner but that an approximate metric equivalent has been included in brackets after each dose to encourage the use of the metric system. These equivalents are sometimes carried out to odd decimal points which will discourage even the most ardent proponent of this system.

In general the book is conservative in its outlook on newer methods. The treatment of diseases of the liver is incomplete and includes much which is outworn. The dosage of quinidine recommended for paroxysmal tachycardia is homeopathic. Aluminum hydroxide and magnesium oxide have failed. There is no discussion of antibiotics in the broad sense. The entire write-up on these substances is outdated; streptomycin is described as being in the experimental stage in tuberculosis; aureomycin does not appear; and penicillin is still in the every-four-hour dosage stage.

There is no bibliography at the ends of the chapters—an inclusion which would help the student. There are appendices, however, which include a conversion table for weights and measures and a list of official preparations with their proprietary equivalents. Forty pages are devoted to technical procedures.

This book can be recommended to American students and practitioners only for its comparative interest.

